CLAIMS:

1. A method of coating a product, carried on a surface of a delivery mechanism, with a coating substance, the method comprising:

delivering the coating substance to a location above said surface carrying said product;

allowing the coating substance to fall under gravity in the direction of said surface;

during its fall, subjecting the coating substance to at least one pressurised gas stream, whereby the falling coating substance is dispersed, and to an electric field, whereby the coating substance is charged.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the coating substance is delivered to a location above said surface carrying said product via an inclined chute.

3. A method according to claim 1 or 2 and comprising vibrating or shaking the chute to disperse the coating substance and to aid transfer of the substance along the chute.

4. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the coating substance is subjected to said at least one pressurised gas stream and to said electric field immediately beneath an exit end of the chute.

5. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the pressurised gas stream is subjected to said electric field prior to impinging upon the coating substance.

6. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the pressurised gas stream impinges upon the coating substance prior to subjection to said electric field.

7. Apparatus for coating a product, carried on a surface of a delivery mechanism, with a coating substance, the apparatus comprising:

a conveyor for conveying the coating substance to a location above said surface carrying said product, an exit end of the conveyor being suitable for siting above said surface;

a gas jet nozzle for location substantially beneath the exit end of the conveyor;

an electrode attached to or located adjacent to said nozzle;

a source of pressurised gas and means for coupling said source to said gas jet nozzle; and

means for charging said electrode;

wherein in use gas ejected from said nozzle passes over said electrode and is charged, and impinges on the coating substance falling from the exit end of the conveyor.

8. Apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said conveyor is a chute which in use is inclined at an angle to the horizontal.

9. Apparatus according to claim 6 and comprising means for vibrating or shaking the chute.

10. Apparatus according to any one of claims 7 to 9, wherein in use the gas ejected from said nozzle passes over said electrode prior to impinging upon the coating substance.

11. Apparatus according to any one of claims 7 to 9, wherein in use the gas ejected from said nozzle impinges upon the coating substance prior to passing over said electrode.

12. Apparatus for use in coating a product with a coating substance, the apparatus comprising:

a gas or liquid jet nozzle having means for coupling the nozzle to a supply of pressurised gas or liquid;

a nozzle holder to which the jet nozzle can be removably attached;

a needle electrode attached to the nozzle holder and means for coupling the electrode to a high voltage charging means; and

the needle electrode being located such that in use when gas or liquid is ejected from the nozzle the gas or liquid passes through an electric field created by the electrode.

5